

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain in this application. Claims 18-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §121 Rejection - Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-17, drawn to a lithography apparatus, classified in class 355, subclass 30; and

Group II: Claims 18- 30, drawn to a method for exchanging gas from enclosure, classified in class 430, subclass 311.

In response to this requirement, the Applicants respectfully elect Group I (Claims 1-17), without traverse, and request that Claims 18-30 be cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement has been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3-8-02

Brent E Vecchia

Brent E. Vecchia
Reg. No. 48,011

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claims 1-17 remain unchanged.

Claims 18-30 are cancelled.